

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A method for increasing efficiency of multi-level review of proposed business deals using an organizational management tool, the tool configured with a database of deals and a plurality of authorized reviewers for the deals, said method comprising the steps of:

a) creating a proposed deal by a user at a business unit included within a business entity, the proposed deal includes at least one of a detailed description of the proposed deal, a deal pitch, information supporting the proposed deal, and a cover letter, the proposed deal further includes a maximum approver associated with the business entity wherein the user selects the maximum approver based on at least one of approval limitations and deal type;

b) utilizing a computer system to transmit the proposed deal to a coordinator associated with the business entity;

c) enabling the coordinator to analyze the proposed deal including reviewing submitted documents for completeness, validate the information supporting the proposed deal, assign a risk manager to the proposed deal, and select a list of reviewers for the proposed deal;

d) utilizing the computer system to transmit the proposed deal from the coordinator to the risk manager;

e) receiving a review summary from the risk manager including a recommendation as to whether to approve the proposed deal;

f) forwarding the proposed deal including the risk manager's recommendation to a next review level within the business entity;

g) analyzing the proposed deal including the risk manager's recommendation; and

h) repeating steps f) and g) until the next review level is the maximum approver wherein the maximum approver is then enabled to accept or decline the proposed deal.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of creating a proposed deal further comprises the steps of enabling a business unit to utilize the computer system to upload at least one business dashboard to a central repository, and populating the at least one business dashboard with information relating to the proposed deal.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a calendar tool configured to schedule at least one meeting among the selected reviewers to discuss the proposed deal.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of creating a proposed deal further comprises the step of notifying a coordinator of the proposed deal.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of utilizing the computer system to transmit the proposed deal from the coordinator to the risk manager further comprises the step of enabling the risk manager to recommend at least one of approve the proposed deal, approve the proposed deal with conditions, and decline the proposed deal.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing the proposed deal further comprises the step of adding at least one of comments and recommendations regarding the proposed deal.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of analyzing the proposed deal further comprises the step of appending a cover memo regarding the proposed deal.

9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of forwarding the proposed deal to a next review level further comprises the step of sending a notification including links to proposed deals for review to a reviewer.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 9 wherein said step of sending a notification including links to deals for review to a reviewer further comprises the step of sending a delinquency notice to a reviewer.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying a submitter of the proposed deal that the proposed deal has been reviewed each time a reviewer has completed a review.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying a submitter of the proposed deal of a resolution regarding the proposed deal.

13. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a review status of a proposed deal.

14. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of forwarding the proposed deal to a next review level further comprises the step of forwarding the proposed deal to authorized users based on stored role information which limit user capabilities.

15. (currently amended) A system for facilitating multi-level review of proposed business deals within a business entity, said system comprising:

at least one computer;

a server configured to store a database of proposed business deals, said server further configured to:

prompt a user to create a proposed deal including at least one of a detailed description of the proposed deal, a deal pitch, information supporting the proposed deal, and a cover letter, the proposed deal further includes a maximum approver associated with the business entity wherein the user selects the maximum approver based on at least one of approval limitations and deal type;

upload at least one business dashboard to the database, and populate the at least one business dashboard with information relating to the proposed deal;

transmit the proposed deal to a coordinator associated with the business entity;

prompt the coordinator to analyze the proposed deal, validate the information supporting the proposed deal, assign a risk manager to the proposed deal, and select a list of reviewers for the proposed deal;

transmit the proposed deal from the coordinator to the risk manager;

receive a review summary from the risk manager including a recommendation as to whether to approve the proposed deal;

transmit the proposed deal including the risk manager's recommendation to a next review level within the business entity; and

prompt the next review level to analyze the proposed deal and, if the next review level is the maximum approver, enable the maximum approver to accept or decline the proposed deal;

a network connecting said at least one computer to said server; and

a user interface including web pages configured to allow users and reviewers to input and receive information relating to the proposed deals.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to access a calendar tool configured to schedule at least one meeting among the selected reviewers to discuss the proposed deal.

18. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to notify a coordinator that a proposed deal has been submitted.

19. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to upload and store recommendations regarding the proposed deal.

20. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to upload and store comments regarding the proposed deal.

21. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to upload and store an appended cover memo for the proposed deal.

22. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to notify a reviewer of proposed deals to be reviewed and further configured to include links to those proposed deals for review.

23. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to notify a submitter of the proposed deal each time a reviewer has uploaded a review.

24. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to notify a submitter of the proposed deal when a resolution regarding the proposed deal has been uploaded.

25. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to store a review status of a proposed deal.

26. (original) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to send a delinquency notice to a reviewer.

27. (original) A system according to Claim 15 wherein said server is further configured to limit user capabilities based on stored role information.

28.-55. (canceled)

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